

## **Recycling & Refuse Management Committee Minutes**

### **March 3, 2011**

Minutes edited/amended & approved from Oct & Nov 2010.

#### **Membership Update**

- New members have been approved (Laurel & Sue).
- We technically have 7 members (does not include Susan W.). Greg will be submitting letter of resignation. Lucy's term expires in the spring. Marianne may resign as well (busy with work).
- Sue Cairn & Andrew Bellak are possibilities. Also Janet Heller (Lucy will call), two women who work at Judies' (Susan W. will call), Jean Murray (landlord in the area, legal background, Susan W. will contact), Tom Walsh (Lucy will contact his wife), Jason B (from UMass, Meg sat on a committee with him). Possibly Michael Stangl (solid waste disposal engineer).

#### **America Recycles Day - Debriefing**

- Did discuss at unofficial meeting in January at the Black Sheep.
- John did a great job orchestrating display at the library. All booklets & pamphlets were taken. Susan was asked to speak at the library staff meeting immediately following. Susan has been attending the Green Library committee, as well.
- Letter to the editor missed the submission deadline and was not published.
- Town of Amherst resolution was passed by the select board 14 years ago.
- November 15, 2011.

#### **Extended Producer Responsibility – next steps**

- Select Board says give them info ASAP and they will address.
- Susan created blurb and info packet for the Select Board.
- Need date. Susan will schedule date.
- Meg and Lucy will go with Susan to the meeting.
- Motion passed unanimously to support taking resolution and info to the Select Board.

#### **Create Styrofoam Discouragement Plan**

- Susan produced a list of Amherst businesses, Laurel put this up on Google Docs. Members agreed to contact 10 establishments each. Have contacted about half of the businesses. Members will continue with this.
- We are focusing on expanded polystyrene (ESP) only.
- Susan will invite Tony Maroulis to the April meeting.
- Taste of Amherst 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this spring. Trying to “go green” – composting, biodegradable paper products (ordered in bulk if possible to keep costs down), etc. All still in the planning stages.

#### New Business

- Trash-Free Lunch Day – April 15<sup>th</sup> in the elementary schools. Susan has met with schools' food services to plan for this. Susan needs volunteers to help staff each of the schools. Lucy can get info to all the PGOs via email. Susan M., Lucy, and Meg will all help with the day.
- Sustainability Festival – April 23<sup>rd</sup> 10:00-4:00 (Easter weekend). Festival organizers are working to pool promotions of local Earth Day events with “The River” (radio station) and WGBY (TV station). Both stations will promote events in all 3 towns. Amherst's event will be held on the Town Common. Recycling Committee will have a booth at the festival. Committee members to let Susan know if they can attend.
- Recycling Committee Annual Report – We need to produce one for FY10. John & Meg will work on together. Susan will assist.
- Residential Composting – Northampton is doing some of this. John is very interested and supportive of this. He has spoken with Casey at Simple Gifts Farm who initially was interested. Need to find someone willing to take the biodegradable waste that would be collected. Susan has been attending regional composting meeting organized by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and will share this information with John. Booth at the Sustainability Festival can include info and materials about composting: Home composters for sale (Susan as town employee has to make the sales), info, Dr. Worm workshop sign-up, local garden shop employee to address composting, education about aeration.
- New Member Handbooks – Distributed to Laurel & Sue M.
- Landfill Alternatives – The future of waste in Amherst. John, Laurel, Meg, and Sue M. are interested in hearing from Guilford about what would be involved in terms of a committee working on this issue.

Next Meeting: April 7, 2011, 4:30